The Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.

Welcome Address

by

Mr. G. D. NAIDU,

President, Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.

and

Speech by

Mr. GORDON P. HAGBERG,

Information Officer, U. S. I. S.,

Madras

to

the Seventh Vacational Course Students

GOPAL BAGH May 20, 1952 COIMBATORE

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Mr. Gordon P. Hagberg, Information officer, U. S. I. S., Madras, who was on a visit to the Hills was invited by Mr. G. D. Naidu to address the students of the Seventh Vacational Course conducted by the Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd., at 5 p. m. on 20th 1952.

Mr. G. D. Naidu, the President of the Association introduced Mr. G. P. Hagberg to the students and the general public assembled on the occasion and spoke as follows :

Speech of

Mr. G. D. NAIDU

Dear Friends:

I have to thank Mr. Hagberg to accept my invitation in a short notice, while it was very inconvenient for him to break the journey, to come here from the hills and address the students. As an Officer in the U. S. I. S., he has collected and learnt more information about our country, while he knows already much about his country. Upto now, there was a drawback in exchanging and adapting the ideas and customs between our country and other countries, on account of different languages and different social customs. But agriculture, industry, science and engineering are basically the same in all the countries. Unfortunately, there were several barriers to adapt them in our country. Amongst them, we were sending unsuitable students or staff to learn the western system with the intention of introducing them here. Still we are continuing the same. Hence, most of the experts are misfitted in some work or other. We can see several instances; a building engineer is a lecturer in Arts College; a Naval Engineer is a lecturer in Electrical Engineering; a doctor in History is a Head of a Scientific institution; even propagandists may be seen in the army or administrative line. While we are committing this mistake,

the Western countries send proper persons to the East including our country to learn social, economic and industrial problems and to pick out whatever is suitable to be adapted in their country, which Mr. Hagberg knows by experience from both the sides. He is going to explain what subjects you can adapt from other countries for the benefit of our country.

The students in our country are going backward in their mental and bodily health after entering the colleges by the environments and the time allowed to spoil themselves. In the recent speeches at the Teachers' Conference, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chettiar mentioned that the present system of education is very bad, though a few very eminent persons are produced in the Colleges.

We have to accept one draw-back that the teachers are the lowest paid staff amongst all the public workers; though not to save something, the salaries must be sufficient at least for their maintenance. One cannot expect anything good from such under-nourished workers, when they are always thinking the ways and means for their next meal before their coming to the institute for teaching. They have to teach only their under-nourishment and the ways and means for next meal. They won't be able to teach anything about science or any other subject.

Some years back, by ignorance on the part of the people and by false propaganda by some experts, communism was spreading very slowly, but now, on account of the insufficient food and clothing and

inefficient unwanted controls and underpayment for the workers including the teachers, even other educated people are driven to communism or to any other '*isms*', though one would not like the Telengana Communism or the Russian Communism. I hope, by the help of America and England, if our government is taking proper steps with proper precaution, there will not be any necessity for any party such as Congress or Communist. I have my own doubt that the help and facilities given by U. S. A. and other countries including Colombo plan is not sufficient and what is given is not used properly.

Very recently, Mr. V. Nagiah, a star artist of South India, mentioned in his speech that the Cinemas are one of the causes for robbery and dacoity and similar other criminal causes. Only just now, few leaders are opening their eyes in this direction. I have told in a recent discussion that the present colleges here are becoming death-cells for the youngsters.

In addition to the opinion of the above leaders, you can see many more such opinions in a short time about the truth of my statement. You can ask how the same cinemas are useful and not creating bad effects in Western countries. In most of the cinemas, youngsters are not allowed. Even when they are allowed to some cinemas, they are spending very little time in such recreations compared to the time spent in education and work, while our students are spending more time and their thoughts in cinemas, in sports, fictitious novels

and politics. Really, they spend very little time in proper education and in useful work, as compared to youths in Western countries.

During my last visit to U. S. A., by a fluke I had the opportunity of being a student as well as a worker in more than 20 institutions. I had never been a student in Indian School or Colleges before. Only after returning from U. S. A., I took much interest in observing the students and college activities. I am dare enough to say now and to prove that number *one* enemies for youngsters are *Parents.* Number *two* enemies are *Present Colleges.* Number *three* enemies are the *Politicians* who enter the colleges. Number *four* enemies are the *Cinemas, Radios* where more time is allotted for Musics and *Dramas, Dances, Music Parties* and *Cigarettes* and number *five* enemies are *Novels* and *Film Magazines* based on fiction and romances and finally, the present day sports and races, though, not yet alcohol has entered.

Now, I have seen the applications and answers to the observation Test. I find their leanings are in Politics such as Congress, Communism, Socialism etc. in addition to running in bad roads as mentioned above. I can't explain in this short time about the dangers ahead more vividly, as it will take several hours. The students will be here for some more weeks. I will then explain, what kind of dangers are in store for them by the present day films, by communism, congress or any other politics, sports or by novels or by cigarettes. At that time, I will also explain how we are preparing

technicians and engineers in an unbalanced way. You, students, are now undergoing the Short Term Courses and you will realize after completing the course, how you have spent the short time of six weeks here in learning automobile service engineering, Radio servicing and Bacteriology, while you have already experienced how much time is wasted upto 3 or 4 years in the colleges and how much unnecessay expenses you have incurred.

Now, you have come from various states and even one from Germany and from various communities but you are moving as one family to learn these valuable subjects. I don't want to drag on any more, as we want to hear Mr. Hagberg's sane advice to the students.

Again, I thank Mr. Hagberg for his kind consent and also Mrs. Hagberg for allowing him and to come here by breaking the journey to spend this short time for our sake.

Thank you all. (cheers)

Speech of

Mr. GORDON B. HAGBERG

Information officer,
U. S. I. S.

Fellow Students,

I think I can address you as such, because I feel that learning is a never-ending process and that while my school days have long since past, I still have much to learn and the same, I think, will hold true for all those that are present here, even including Mr. Naidu himself. I think he would agree with me but at any rate, we are here to discuss a few things about the process of education and some of the benefits that may be derived from it.

Mr. Naidu has correctly pointed out some of the difficulties that lie in your path. I should like to point out some of the constructive possibilities that lie ahead of you. Before I do that, however, I wish to thank Mr. Naidu for his kind invitation for me to address you. I can assure you that any difficulty that may have been encountered in my coming here is more than made up by the privilege of addressing you. I consider it, not a task, but a privilege because it gives me a chance to learn a little more about India, about your problems. In the few days that I have been in Coimbatore, thanks

to Mr. Naidu's hospitality and to Mr, Balasubramanian's very able guidance, I have learnt more about this city of yours than I would have on my own, perhaps in a month. But it has been extremely interesting and I hope that I may have the privilege of coming back here again in the future.

Now, I referred to learning as a never-ending process. This process of education is a progressive one, not a static one. The conditions are always changing and therefore, I would like to emphasize those aspects of education which make for a rounded citizenship rather than that aspect of education which gives you information and nothing else. Now the acquirement, the acquisition of information and the knowlege how to do things is absolutely essential but the process of education must not stop there. The mere becoming of a mechanic or an engineer is itself a necessary process but education as such involves a good deal more. And I would like to mention very briefly, because our time is limited, some of the onward objectives that may be served by education in the broader sense.

Now, one of them is self-reliance in addition to learning how to put certain parts together and how to make machines operate. In this process of training and education, you should also learn how to rely upon your own ability rather than running to somebody else for the information. Such an attitude will stand you in good stead in later life. As children, we naturally go to our parents

whenever we encounter some difficulty. They sometimes solve the problem, sometimes not. But in any case, it is a very natural impulse on our part to go to the parents for help in difficult situation. As we grow older, we learn more and more to rely on ourselves and then in this process of education, that tendency should be carried to even fuller and more of fine extent. These qualities that I am mentioning briefly go in pairs.

Along with self reliance, there is resourcefulness. Now, I think of resourcefulness as extension of self-reliance. It means calling upon some of your capabilities that might very easily lie untapped, a little imagination perhaps, a little hard thinking that will make you improvise a solution to a problem that might otherwise go unsolved. If the specified tool is not available, well, how about using a little thinking power, a little imagination, a little initiative and devising something that will do the job just as well. Now, that in a very crude sense, perhaps, can be considered as stupefying resourcefulness but it is the process that will be helpful to you in later life, no matter what problems you run up against. It will also make you a better mechanic, a better engineer.

Self-reliance and resourcefulness in themselves are not enough. They make you as an individual, a capable one. They may make you in your profession, a very capable person but there is a broader consideration and that is, how to get along with your fellow beings. That brings up the attribute of co-operation. What I have in mind by

that term is, I mean only a group action. Getting along with your fellow classmates now will help you later on to get along with your fellow citizens. It is not as easy as it sounds. I haven't got the time and perhaps, you do not need to have this thing explained in detail but I am sure that we need to bear it in mind as a noteworthy objective. I dare say that in your every day working on automobiles, you have a very good example of co-operation in a mechanical sense. Each part has a specified duty, a function and that part has to carry out its function in co-ordination with others. The power generated by your internal combustion machine is transmitted through the clutch and the universal and the diferential to the wheel where the actual drive is applied for your practical purpose that it was designed for. And while that is a mechanical process, the act or the process of co-operation is much more difficult because it involves the human element and the human element is perhaps one of the most unpredictable that we have come across in our various everyday problems in the course of human history. But with all its unpredictability, it still yields to reason and it yields to a situation that calls for and demands certain responses which, through experience, we have found the most productive and the most beneficial to all people, so that, working together, we have applied the term co-operation and it is that attribute or a sense of that particular need that will help you in later life to meet problems that lie outside your immediate calling, your immediate trade or your immediate profession. It is something, it is the realization that we must have in order to make our

lives full and productive. Now, as I said a moment ago, these attributes go in pairs.

Well, along with co-operation, there is another quality which I like to think of as civic responsibility. Now, this quality is again an extension of co-operation. However, it is carried a little further and has a broader significance. By civic responsibility, I don't want you to think that I am referring to politics. Civic responsibility on your part is something broader than that. It is an awareness of the needs, not only of your immediate community but of your nation and beyond the nation, of the world of which you are a part. And it doesn't stop with simply an awareness. It must involve action that is geared to this awareness. And it must involve the use of your intellect and good sense and application of responsibility in the sense of feeling that it is upto you to be well informed on the issues that face your group, your nation, and eventually, the whole world as the largest community. Being fully informed on the issues that face your group, I think, is one of the main requisities of this civic responsibility that I am referring to. And I would urge you to feel that it is one of your biggest duties to keep not only fully informed but to attempt in the acquisition of this information to achieve a balance. Don't jump to conclusions just because your emotions tell you to do. Think things over a bit, weigh them against facts from other sources. The truth, I am sure, under circumstances like that, will always prevail. And you, as individuals, can feel that you were considerate on your part to a general equanimity and a general balance which makes possible the achievement and progress throughout the land.

Now, these qualities I have mentioned have their counter-parts on the international field in a way that I think we can cover very briefly, and what I have to say here is more in the nature of a reminder than it is of any sane or saintly advice. I just want to call these things to your attention and I am sure that your process of thinking will take care of the rest and that you will assimilate whatever soundness there may be in these suggestions. Now, in the question of self-reliance on the national and international scene, I think that we can point to the fact that India in spite of many adversities, is striving hard and is progressing, though slowly. I recognize and perhaps in a way that you cannot, some of the terrific problems that India is facing. I am thinking on my part, of the problems that were infant to the public some 175 years ago and were faced, although the circumstances where somewhat different. Essentially, they were the same as far as intensity and degree is concerned. And we can think of India as having shown the tendency for self-reliance in the mere fact that it has striven for and achieved independance. Now independance means 'not dependant on'. And not being dependant on is, to my mind, an indication of self-reliance.

Going on to the next quality, that of resourcefulness. Here again I think India has great potentialities. India has shown, as in the past, that she has citizens that are quite capable in the various fields of human endeavour. You have produced scientists and you have produced field engineers. I think that at this time, it might be appropriate to

point to my host and your speaker today, Mr. Naidu, as an example of resourcefulness and as long as individuals with resourcefulnes, as he has demonstrated, can be produced by India, I think, India is going to have the resourcefulness necessary to progress as a nation in the comity of nations.

Now the question of co-operation is one that involves my country as well as yours and it is precisely here that the U. S. A. realizes and genuinely adheres to the necessity of any aid that might be extended to India coming in the form of co-operation and not in the form of donation. And it is precisely with such realization in mind that our Ambassador and your Prime-minister have worked out the technical co-operation assistance scheme. And under that scheme, India will provide some funds and America will provide some funds. A plan or a group of plans will be geared to the five years plan and the assistance from America will not be only in the form of cash but in the form of product, in the form of machinery, in the form of technical assistance. People who have huge experience in one field or another, agriculture or irrigation or industrial activity and have learnt certain lessons and gained certain experience in the United States, will under this plan come here and offer their experience in the working out of the plan as envisaged by this TCA scheme.

I like to mention also the co-operation involves an exchange of ideas. Mr. Naidu referred to this very necessary element in our relations. And I

would say that the USIS in its way is finely contributing to this co-operation by making information available to Indians about America, through various media, the film, the printed word, booklets and pamphlets and our weekly paper, the *American Reporter* and other means. We try and bring, and make available to Indians information that would give them a clearer picture about the life of Americans, about the nature of its Government, about its education and agriculture and about its industry and its economic problems. By the same token, I think that America has much to learn about and from India. And I think that it is this interchange of information and ideas that will contribute a great deal and will make to the relations of the two countries and will make these two democracies bring life into the world co-operation.

Fourth quality, civic responsibility is a little more difficult to pin down but I would say that it is clearly established that both India and the U. S. A. have ultimately the same goals in mind, the same objectives. We are trying to make a world, in which individuals have freedom and at the same time have the necessities of life, and at the same time are able to advance themselves as individuals and as nations in a peaceful world. The U. S. A. and India have both signified their adherence to these objectives by joining the United Nations and by struggling through the United Nations to achieve the goal that we are all so aware of, as being necessary. And I would say that minor differences do not make so much difference as long as the ultimate goals are the same, as long as our

basic concepts of democratic procedure and our concepts of truth as the ultimate guide, prevail. It is with that assurance and it is with that hope and confidence that I wish all of you as individuals in your present endeavour and as citizens of India, the best of success. Thank you very much. (Cheers)

Vote of thanks

by

Mr. N. LAKSHMANAN.

I am very thankful to our Mr. Naidu for the opportunity he has given me to offer thanks to our distinguished visitor. I am one of the millions to have the benefit of the useful literature which the American Information Bureau is despatching to us, especially the weekly Journal known as the *American Reporter*. You have got the English edition. You have got the Hindi edition; also I believe the Tamil edition of recent origin. So I am very grateful to Mr. Hagberg. You will find this kind of literature is spreading all over India and if you are like me, one of the regular readers of that Journal, you will find hundreds of persons convey their thanks. And I am very happy this evening to add my humble voice to that chorus of appreciation for the tremendous work which the American people are doing for the benefit of India.

About five months ago, I had a chance to pay a flying visit to Delhi aud my hosts asked me not to return to Coimbatore without visiting the Faridabad Co-operative Township. When I went there, the administrator, who is now in America I mean Mr. Sudhir Ghosh, just told me that Mr. Chester Bowles, the American Ambassador had come and gone with so much appreciation of the work done there on the principles of co-operation and self help. I am not going to take away your precious time by describing

the Community Project. I found that to be a symbol of what is yet to come to us by way of Indo-American co-operation. I am even now very closely going through the great experiments known as the Community Projects. You know in our Country, "Community" has got a very dismal significance. But with our American brethren, a community means society with a homogeneous organic one-ness. If time permitted, I would have requested Mr. Hagberg, our distinguished visitor to tell us something more about that. The other day, a Conference was held at New Delhi when the Development Commissioners from all over India met under the guidance of our Prime Minister Nehru and the essentials of the Community Projects were published in daily journals, and the *American Reporter*. So I need not repeat them here.

On behalf of you all and on behalf of the students assembled here and the distinguished guests here, I offer my respectful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hagberg. (cheers)

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Printed at U. M. S. Power Press, Coimbatore.